

Field And Garden Bugs

Notes from the Entomologist On Insect Pests.

Clemson College, April 19.—The boll weevil has spread over the greater portion of South Carolina. In several of the coastal counties it is entering its third year of infestation. In case of a wet season severe damage may be expected in Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton and Charleston counties. Considerable damage may also occur in the other coastal sections.

The fundamental procedure in boll weevil control is intelligent diversification resulting in greatly improved soil fertility, soil conditions. An early crop of cotton is very necessary in weevil years. Minor operations are profitable under favorable conditions, such as handpicking of fallen squares and collecting of punctured squares and bolls. These may be advantageously practiced where labor is cheap and available, for example, on plantations operated by families with a number of children that can be employed.

The latest development in weevil control is poisoning, but this method is yet in the experimental stages. The work so far done has been on Mississippi Delta plantations and the results secured are most promising. While it is not expected that this method will ever eradicate the pest, yet viewing the results so far secured together with the history of weevil poisoning, the prospects are very promising that this method is to develop into an important factor in boll weevil control. A great many details must yet be worked out experimentally. There will yet be continued improvements in the dusting machines and in the manufacture of calcium arsenate, which appears to be one of the most difficult insecticides to manufacture. Furthermore, the various details that present themselves on the different plantations outside of the Mississippi Delta will be worked out so that a definite and logical system of poisoning can be recommended. Under any conditions, poisoning in this state in 1926 should only be undertaken where weevil damage is expected to be severe; it should be undertaken on a small scale only, and when once begun it should be repeated as often as necessary in a thorough manner for the results are likely to be unsatisfactory. Experimental work will be conducted in the coastal counties of this state where the weevil is expected to be most injurious. A number of planters will no doubt conduct poisoning operations with machines and materials probably available. No one should undertake dusting without receiving full and authentic information about dusting machines and the adoption of proper safeguards in purchasing and applying calcium arsenate. Full information may be obtained by writing to the U. S. Delta Laboratory, Tallulah, La., or the Extension Service, Clemson College, S. C.

THE PINK BOLL WORM.

This pest introduced into Texas several years ago where it was held at bay by the combined efforts of the Federal Horticultural Board and the Texas authorities, has assumed a threatening attitude. This pest extended its areas in Texas; it then got away and established itself in the three southwestern counties in Louisiana; and from these points shipments of cotton were made to various and sundry points before its presence was discovered.

Both Texas and Louisiana have increased their machinery for dealing with the situation, but in the meantime great precautions are necessary to prevent the spread of the pest to other sections of the cotton states. Drastic quarantine measures have been adopted or are contemplated by the various cotton states, and these are to be in force at least until the limits of distribution of the pest are again determined. This is one of the worst insect pests of cotton, and wherever it appears in boll weevil infested territory, the damage may be expected to increase not less than 25 per cent.

GARDEN INSECTS.

The principal sprays used against garden insects are arsenate of lead or arsenate of lime (also known as calcium arsenate or calcium arsenate) for eating insects, and nicotine concentrates for sucking insects. Against potato beetles, cabbage worms and other eating insects on hardy plants Paris Green can be used if properly made, but it should not be used on tender plants. Calcium arsenate is cheaper than arsenate of lead and can be used on most garden plants if it is insisted that it contains not over .75 per cent soluble arsenic.

Nicotine is purchased as nicotine sulphate and is in very concentrated form. It is made up at the rate of a teaspoonful to an ordinary pail of water, or a coffee cupful to a fifty-gallon barrel of water. A little soap-suds added is helpful. Soap dissolved in warm water at the rate of one pound to five gallons is a good spray for the common plant lice, but NO SOAP SHOULD BE USED THAT CONTAINS TAR OR NAPHTHA. Detailed directions may be obtained from the Entomology Division, Clemson College, S. C.

ONIONS IN MILK

Flavor and Odor Not Unwholesome But Very Objectionable.

Remedies Suggested

Clemson College, April 13.—With the coming of spring and fresh pastures a great many farmers, milk producers, and consumers are confronted with the usual, and to a certain extent inevitable, flavor and odor of onions in milk products. The presence of onion flavor in milk does not indicate that the milk containing this flavor has been produced or handled under unsanitary conditions, nor does the presence of the flavor and odor render the milk unwholesome for human consumption. But the onion flavor in milk, even to a slight degree, is such a pronounced and unpleasant one to the great majority of consumers that from a commercial standpoint all milk so affected is unfit. Cream from this milk may be used for butter making, though the resulting butter will still retain the objectionable flavor to a marked degree. As a result of this trouble in milk, many producers and dealers suffer every spring considerable financial loss, a part of which, at least could be avoided if proper precautions were taken and preparation made for the short time during which the trouble arises.

As to remedies and treatment of "oniony" milk, the only sure and effective means lies in prevention. If onions are present in the pasture they must come out, or the milk cow must be kept out for several hours prior to milking time, else the milk will surely have the characteristic objectionable odor and flavor. Should the onions be few, or should they be confined to a limited area, it might be possible and advisable to pull up the plants by hand before seed are produced and thus eventually rid the pasture of them. On the other hand, if the pasture is badly infested the only course to follow is to take the milk cows off the pasture early in the afternoon, at least four or five hours before milking time.

The onion plant is one of the first to begin growing in the spring, and the cow, with her natural craving for green succulent feed at this season of the year, is not at all particular about what she eats while the grazing is so scant. In this connection a grazing lot of rye or rye and barley, or clover and barley serves a double purpose. If the cow is allowed access to such grazing lots for an hour or so each day not only will her milk flow be very much increased but her hunger for green feed will be satisfied to such an extent that she will be more careful about grazing on wild onions while in the pasture.

The onion flavor in milk is only one, though perhaps the most pronounced and objectionable, of many food flavors which often get into milk from the cow. Such feeds as rape, rutabagas, cabbage and wet brewer's grains, when fed either just prior to or during milking, often impart quite pronounced and objectionable flavors to milk. Any of the above feeds, however, may safely be fed just after milking or several hours before milking without affecting the flavor of the milk in any way. So it is where conditions make it necessary to graze milk cows on onion infested pastures. If the cows are turned on these pastures immediately after milking in the morning and then driven up about noon, there should be little if any trace of onion flavor in the milk. Especially is this true where the cows are allowed to graze on green grazing lots which are free from the wild onions or where a good grade of corn silage is fed as a succulent feed.

Various methods of removing the onion flavor and odor from milk so contaminated have been tried out with little success. Perhaps the most common as well as the most effective treatment is that of aeration. But even with this method, the amount of the objectionable flavor and odor removed is so small that it is impossible to render contaminated milk free from taint.

Summary.

1. Allow milk cows to run on onion infested pastures only in the forenoon. Drive them up four or five hours before milking time.
2. Provide green grazing lots, or have an abundance of corn silage, to increase the flow of milk and to appease the cow's craving for green feed.
3. Take extra precautions with the handling and cooling of the milk in order that no bad odors and flavors might develop to augment the objectionable ones from the onions.

AVOID COUNTRY DAMAGE TO COTTON

In a recent test by the Bureau of Markets it was shown that a bale of cotton exposed to the weather for 6 months lost by weather damage 76 pounds from its original weight. At the prevailing price of 40 cents per pound this loss would be \$30.50. The bale could have been stored in a good warehouse and insured for 6 months for less than \$3.00. It has been estimated that the loss in the value of the entire cotton crop resulting from damage may amount to \$60,000,000.

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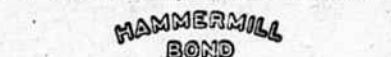
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